



November 4, 2013

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **November 18**.

This issue contains information from **October 21 – November 4, 2013** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events. For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

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COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

Assessing Risk and Strengthening Community-wide Preparedness

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Dial In Number: 888-233-9077

Passcode: 1840598

Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW7733604&p=1840598&t=c>

Risk assessments are a vital source of baseline information for preparedness planning. Community decisions made now affect the lives and investments of everyone in the community for decades. Therefore, it is important to collaborate with key stakeholders when using risk assessment tools to decide which hazards require attention and what actions must be planned for to protect the people, property, and environment. During this COCA Call/Webinar, learn how the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center developed partnerships between health care and public health agencies to assess their community's risk and improve their community-based planning.

CE = Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_111413.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls.

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 37 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Do 1 Thing: Power – October 30 (CDC)

Do you know what to do if the power goes out? A power outage often follows another emergency – like a hurricane, tornado, or winter storm – but it can also be the result of downed trees, heat waves, and blackouts. Because you never know when the power can go out, it is important to be prepared to be able to meet your basic needs without electricity.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/10/do-1-thing-power/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp>

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

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- [Influenza Vaccination Among Pregnant Women — Massachusetts, 2009–2010](#)
- [Global Routine Vaccination Coverage — 2012](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Outbreaks of Cyclosporiasis — United States, June–August 2013](#)
- [Announcements: Environmental Microbiology: Control of Foodborne and Waterborne Diseases Course — January 6–11, 2014](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

NEW: MMWR: Surveillance Summary Report: Malaria Surveillance – United States, 2011 – November 1 (CDC)

The number of cases reported in 2011 marked the largest number of cases since 1971 (N = 3,180). Despite progress in reducing the global burden of malaria, the disease remains endemic in many regions, and the use of appropriate prevention measures by travelers is still inadequate.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6205a1.htm?s_cid=ss6205a1_w

NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Just One Breath: How Voices of Valley Fever Were Heard Coast to Coast – October 22 (CDC)

Caused by breathing in spores from a fungus that grows in the dirt throughout the Southwest, coccidioidomycosis – as it is formally known – can cause serious illness and a painful death. It spreads from the lungs to the bones, skin, and organs. It can cause lifelong pain and disability and require years of expensive medications. If you live in

one of the 15 states that are required to report cases of the disease to the CDC, you have a greater chance of getting valley fever than you do AIDS, hepatitis, or Lyme disease.
<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/10/just-one-breath-how-voices-of-valley-fever-were-heard-coast-to-coast/>

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Update: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) – November 1 (CDC)

A novel coronavirus called “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being done to figure out the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – November 1 (CDC)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – October 26 (CDC)

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – October 24 (US Department of State)

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Food, Drug and Device Safety

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



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